

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph. Claims 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e). Claims 1, 3-21 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a). Claims 1, 3-28 are cancelled by this amendment. Claims 29-42 are added by this amendment.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 3-21 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claims the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. The Applicant has noted the Examiner's reasoning with regards to this rejection and has been cognizant of these issues in the newly added claims.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S Patent No. 6,240,449 (Nadeau). Further, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3-21 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nadeau. Although the noted claims have been cancelled, the Applicant will address any rejections which may be issued based on Nadeau.

The Applicant's invention as recited in the claims is a system and method for routing telephonic traffic over a communications network. Included in this system is a network server connectable to a data network such as the Internet wherein the network server is configured to display one or more interactive displays and a system user may add, delete and/or amend routing addresses and related information associated with a particular destination address. This information is storable in a database within the network server made and accessible to a service control point (SCP) in an advanced intelligent network (AIN). Upon access by the SCP, routing information may be provided for identified destination addresses. The routing information is then employable to route the incoming call to a routing addresses identified by a system user.

Nadeau discloses a method and system for managing communication sessions originating from either one of a telecommunications network, such as the PSTN network or a mobile telephone network, and a data communications network such as the Internet. A service logic controller (SLC) may be implemented on a network server and be configured to store routing information associated with particular telephone numbers. This information may be time or day related and be associated with one or more telephone numbers.

The Applicant's invention is novel and non-obvious in light of Nadeau because the cited reference does not teach or suggest the type of functionality included in the Applicant's invention for programming system user preferences. More specifically, in the Applicant's invention the network server is configured such that it is accessible over a data network, such as the Internet through use of a web browser. The network server includes various interactive displays which are presented to a system user so that various functions such as adding, deleting and/or amending the routing information may be performed. Further, functions are provided for easily adding new destination addresses and then associating those new addresses with routing instructions and routing addresses.

An inventive aspect of the Applicant's invention is that the system is easily accessed using well-known tools such as web browsers and routing information and routing addresses easily added or amended. Telecommunications networks, as they currently exist, use a cumbersome interface such as the keypad on a telephone in order to access and amend routing information. Using this device, the user information would then be programmed into the SCP and stored in a database associated with the SCP. Typically this database is inaccessible over a data network such as the Internet.

Although the Nadeau reference does teach the storage of routing information in a database located in a network server, there is no teaching or suggestion as to how a system user may store this information in memory. In Column 3, Line 60 to Column 4, Line 46 of Nadeau, there is discussion as to the use of a session disposition program which determines how communications sessions to a particular party is to be managed. However, what is missing in Nadeau is how this session disposition program is created. It is merely mentioned in the reference that this program is stored in memory and employed at certain times, but there is no discussion as to how it is created or if it is easy to create.

As mentioned above, the Applicant's invention is focused on the combined features of easily creating this stored instruction set and then employing it to route calls. These feature are provided through network access to a network server and the employment of various screen displays, which allow a user to add, amend and/or delete their own routing addresses and associated information. As such because the cited reference does not teach or suggest a means for easily accessing and furthering routing addresses and information, the Applicant's invention should be consider novel and non-obvious in light of Nadeau.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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REDLINED CLAIMS

Delete Claims 1 and 3-28.

Please add the following Claims:

29. A user programmable system for routing telephonic traffic in a communications network comprising:

a network server connectable to a data network wherein the communications server is further configured to communicate with a service control point (SCP) in a telephonic network, said network server including:

a subscriber information database accessible by the SCP so as to provide telephonic routing information in response to a detected attempt to connect with a destination address at the SCP; and

at least one interactive screen display presentable to system users accessing the network server over the data network wherein the interactive screen displays are configured such that the system users may add, amend, and/or delete routing addresses and information associated with one or more destination address stored in the subscriber information database.

30. The system of Claim 21 wherein the interactive screen displays are interactive pages accessible over the Internet using a commercial web browser.

31. The system of Claim 29 wherein the one or more destination addresses include at least one of:

home telephone number, work telephone number, wireless telephone number, pager number and IP telephony connection address.

32. The system of Claim 29 wherein the routing addresses and routing information

includes at least one of routing instructions based on a particular date, routing instructions based on a time of day, and routing instructions based on the detected destination address.

33. The system of Claim 29 wherein the telephonic network is configured as an advanced intelligent network (AIN).

34. The system of Claim 29 wherein the at least one interactive screen display is configured for at least one of:

receiving the one or more destination addresses information;

receiving one or more routing addresses and related information routing for the one or more destination addresses;

receiving additions, deletions, and amendments of the related information ; and

presenting and amending information with regards to pager unavailability.

35. A method for routing telephonic traffic in a communications network comprising the steps of:

displaying at least one interactive screen display configured for receiving routing addresses and related information for at least one destination address;

receiving the routing addresses and related information through the interactive display, associating the routing addresses and related information with one or more of the destination addresses and storing the routing addresses and related information and destination addresses in memory;

receiving a request for the routing addresses and related information associated with a particular destination address from a service control point (SCP) in a telephonic network;

retrieving from memory the routing addresses and related information associated with the particular destination address; and

transmitting the requested routing addresses and related information addresses to the SCP.

36. The method of Claim 35 wherein the data network comprises the Internet.
37. The method of Claim 35 wherein the related information is based on at least one of date and time of day.
38. The method of Claim 37 further comprising the step of calculating a time difference between the geographic location of the destination address and the geographic location of the routing address.
39. The method of Claim 35 further comprising the step of presenting an interactive screen display accessible over the Internet configured for adding, deleting, and/or amending the destination address information.
40. The method of Claim 35 further comprising the step of presenting an interactive display wherein one or more destination addresses may be entered.
41. The method of Claim 35 further comprising the step of presenting an interactive display configured for receiving the related information including:
entry of time of day and date based routing information.
42. The method of Claim 35 further comprising the step of presenting an interactive screen display specially configured for receiving pager unavailability information.